

earning the Purple Heart and Bronze Star, Mr. Schepers was shot through the leg and foot while saving a fallen comrade. He was not expected to ever walk again, let alone run. But through commitment, sheer determination and pushing himself to his physical limits, he battled back to health. Today, he devotes much of his time assisting ailing Veterans and working to raise awareness to issues of importance for all Veterans. He has logged over 3,500 miles while running for both Vietnam, and Korean War Veterans, in between working as a registered nurse and keeping-up with his three grown children, Melissa, Jennifer and Matthew.

Although Mr. Schepers' story may be news to many, the plight of our World War II Veterans is too frequently forgotten. According to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, of the 16 million Americans that served in World War II, 672,000 were injured and 406,000 died. Each day of freedom we live, we owe to them. Mr. Schepers' tribute to this great American generation is a welcome sight, and one that all Americans must not take for granted.

As the spouse of a Vietnam Veteran, it is both a privilege and an honor to recognize Mr. Schepers for his dedication to our nation's Veterans and for his unwavering commitment to our country. All Veterans deserve our full, undivided respect and admiration for the sacrifices they have made to preserve our freedom. Tom Schepers is a hero for his service as well as for the gratitude he has demonstrated for those who have served our country.

TRIBUTE TO COACHES VS. CANCER
FUNDRAISERS JULI AND JIM
BOEHEIM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2001

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, seven years ago, a group of NCAA basketball coaches gathered to create Coaches vs. Cancer, an effort dedicated to reducing the risk of cancer in youth and raising funds to assist in the research, patient services, advocacy, and prevention programs of the American Cancer Society. Since its inception, Coaches vs. Cancer, now a formalized partnership between the National Association of Basketball Coaches and the American Cancer Society, has raised millions of dollars nationally.

In Central New York, Syracuse University Men's Basketball Coach Jim Boeheim began his longtime involvement in the effort during the 1995-1996 season. In its first year of existence, Coach Boeheim's group raised a record for first year programs nationally and finished second in local contribution totals across the country. In its second season, the Syracuse program became the national effort's largest local fundraiser, an honor the Central New York program holds even to this day. Coach Boeheim currently serves as National Chair of the Coaches vs. Cancer Council.

In addition to Coach Boeheim's advocacy and support, the Syracuse chapter owes its

success to the work of Juli Boeheim. Since beginning her involvement, Juli Boeheim has chaired numerous fundraising and public awareness events, including creating the Coaches vs. Cancer Basket Ball Black Tie Gala, which has netted over \$350,000 over the past two years. Both Jim and Juli Boeheim have traveled regionally and nationally on behalf of the organization and assist in recruiting additional coaches and their spouses to become involved. They have filmed public service announcements, made numerous hospital visits, and attended dozens of public awareness events on behalf of the organization.

Jim and Juli Boeheim's leadership has allowed the Syracuse University Coaches vs. Cancer program to raise close to \$2 million for the local programming of the American Cancer Society. As the Home Builders Association of Central New York prepares to honor the Boeheims for their longtime work at its annual Parade of Homes Preview Party on May 31st, it is my privilege to recognize Jim and Juli Boeheim for their leadership—on both a national and local level—within the Coaches vs. Cancer organization.

TRIBUTE TO MR. IRV REFKIN

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2001

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a good friend from the San Diego area, Mr. Irv Refkin. Irv will be celebrating his 80th birthday next month and I wanted to take this time to say congratulations.

Irv has lived in Coronado for 20 years and has always been a great supporter of the San Diego community and all its causes. He has never been afraid to speak his mind and when you ask his opinion, you better be prepared to get it.

For five decades, Irv has been involved with the U.S. Navy and several aspects of shipbuilding and repair. Since 1976, Irv has been President of Pacific Defense Systems, a very important ship repair company in National City, California, where he is responsible for all operations. Throughout his service, I can always count on Irv to come up with innovative ideas that help the little guys.

I enjoy working and knowing Irv. He is a world traveler, having just returned from a trip to South Africa, Rome and Madrid, knows how to enjoy fine dining, and is a tremendous asset to the San Diego community. Happy 80th birthday Irv.

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY
OF ROY AND FERN
BARNES

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2001

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Roy and Fern Barnes of Pasadena,

Texas as they celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary on June 6, 2001. Roy and Fern have exhibited the finest principles in their service to their community and their family.

Roy Barnes was born in McAlester, Oklahoma, on April 30, 1920. He graduated from Henryetta High School in Henryetta, Oklahoma in 1938. Fern Barnes was born in Hannah, Oklahoma, on January 27, 1922 and was named Ruth Fern Painter. She graduated from Henryetta High School in 1938 and met Roy in 1940.

They eloped in 1941 and were married by a Justice of the Peace in Holdenville, Oklahoma. Roy and Fern later moved to California so Roy could work in a shipyard. He joined the U.S. Army in 1944 to serve his country. After his service in World War II, he sought work in Texas and found it in 1947 at the Shell Chemical Company in Deer Park.

Roy joined the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers International Union in 1948. Actively involved in union affairs, Roy was elected as President of OCAW Local 4-367 in 1963. In 1970, he was elected to the full-time position of Secretary-Treasurer, a position he held for fourteen years, until he retired in 1984. He also served at the national level of the OCAW, as a member of the Executive Board, from 1975 to 1983.

Roy was also active in community affairs, such as serving on the Salvation Army Advisory Board. He was elected to the Harris County Democratic Executive Committee and served as Judge of Precinct 170 for twenty years.

Fern was a full-time homemaker and mother. As her three children grew older, she participated more in local civic activities. She was a volunteer in several hospitals including Southmore, Veterans and Ben Taub for many years. She and Roy have been active in the Golden Acres Civic Club, where Fern has served in every office, including President. Fern was also appointed a member of the Harris County Appraisal District Appeals Board, serving for three years. She was also a member of the Pasadena Independent School District Equalization Board. She was also Assistant Precinct Judge in Precinct 170 for twenty years. She is still active today, currently serving as the Treasurer of the OCAW 4-367 Retirees Club.

Roy and Fern have contributed many efforts to improve our community. They are lifelong Democrats who have always upheld the principles of fairness, honesty and compassion. As part of their legacy, they raised three children who were taught that they have a duty to do that which was right, without concern for whether it was convenient or not. Each of the children became an active member of the community, one as a lawyer, one who became Secretary-Treasurer of OCAW 4-367, following his father's example, and one who taught American Government for 29 years at San Jacinto College.

Throughout 60 years of marriage, Roy and Fern Barnes have exhibited a loving relationship which has been an example of how a good marriage can work for the two people and their community. I want to congratulate Roy and Fern Barnes on this special occasion of celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary.